



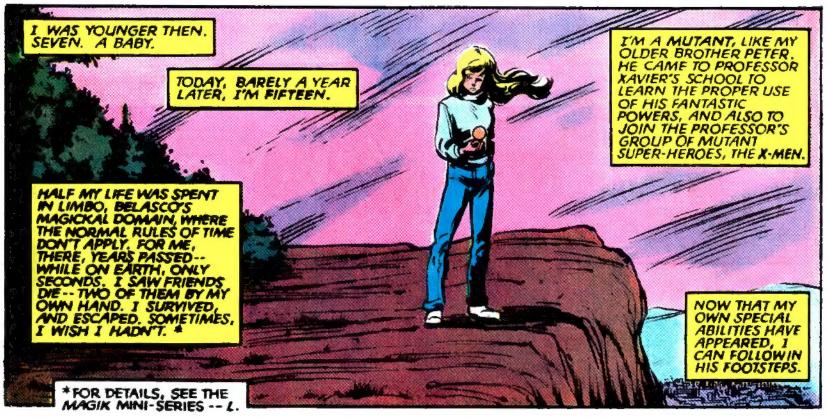
CHRIS CLAREMONT writer SAL BUSCEMA penciler

TOM MANDRAKE finisher GLYNIS WEIN colorist TOM ORZECHOWSKI letterer JONES editor SHOOTER boss NEW MUTANTS STARS

CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT & BOB MCLEOD



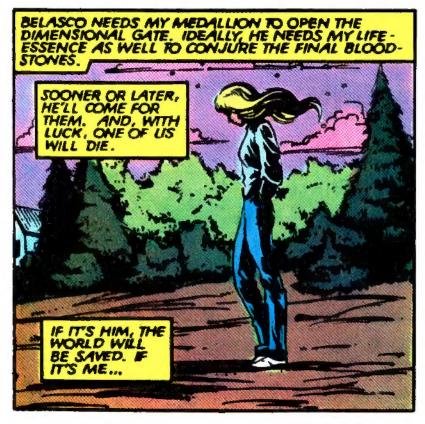
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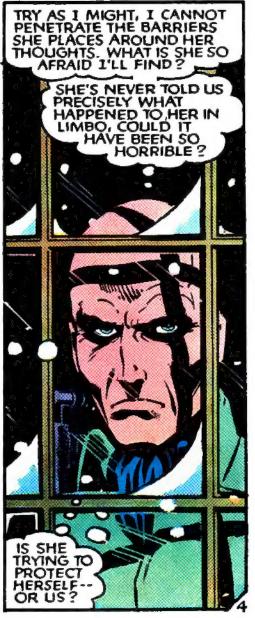




























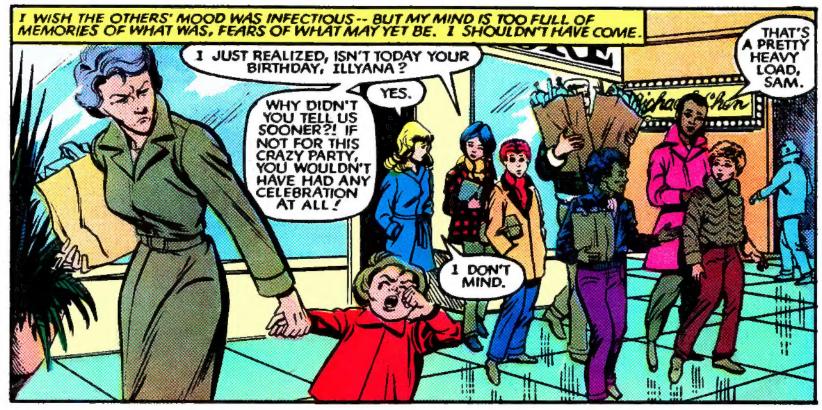








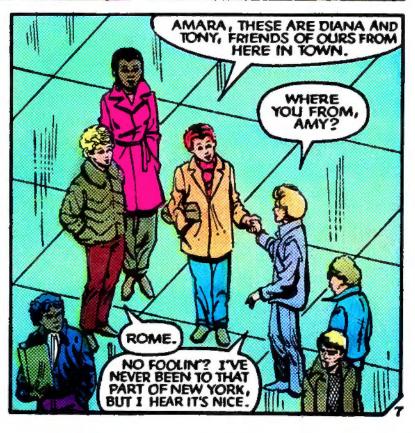


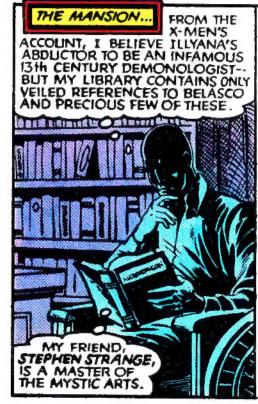










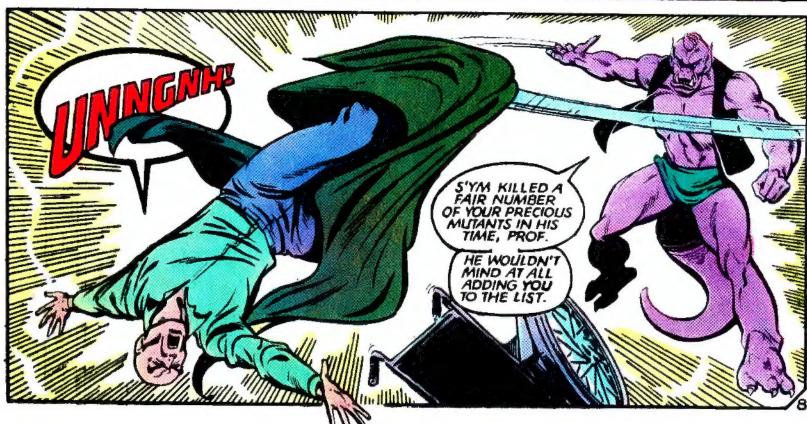










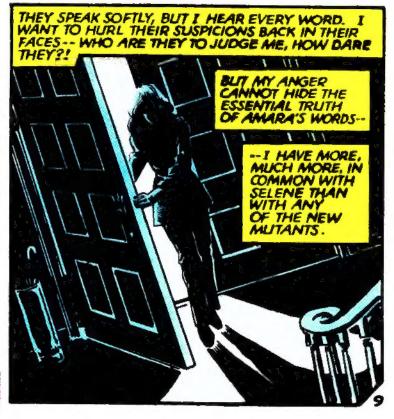














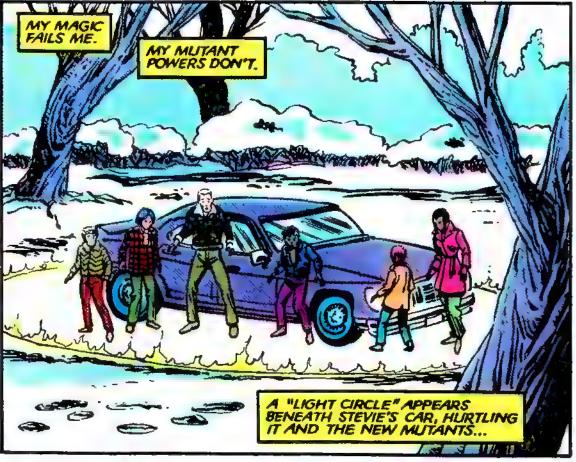






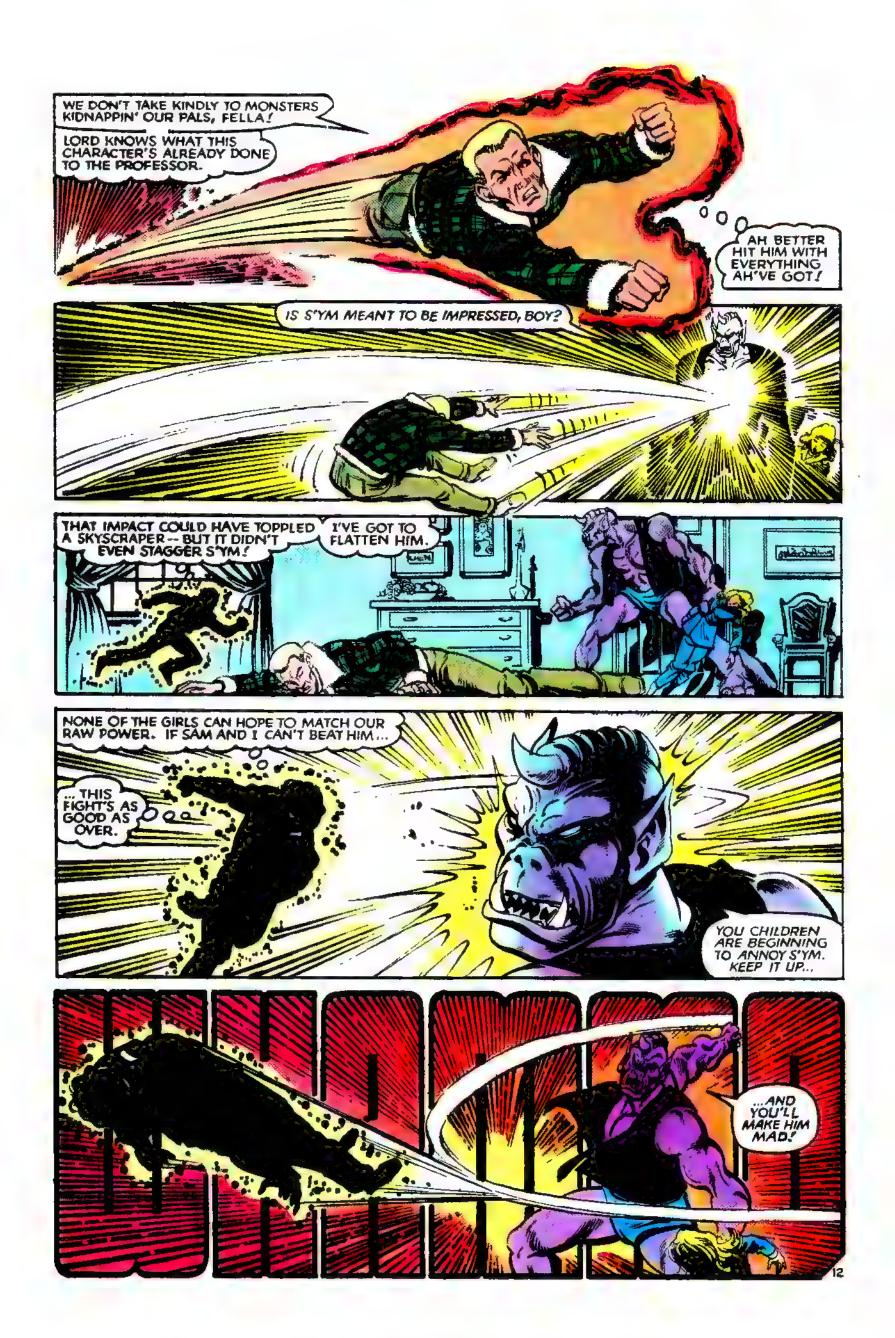












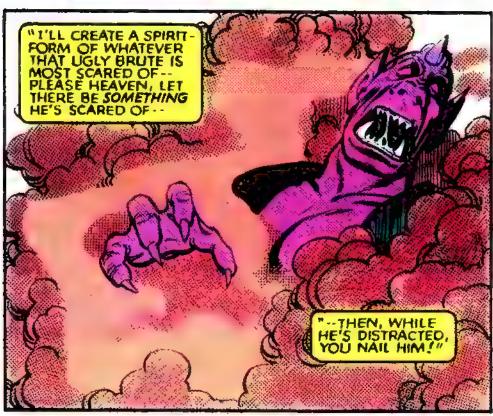




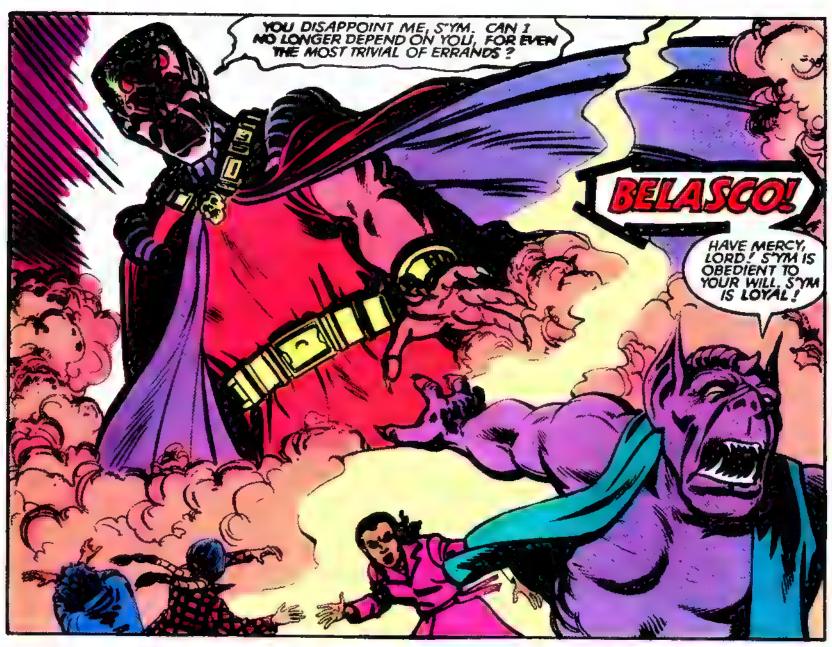




























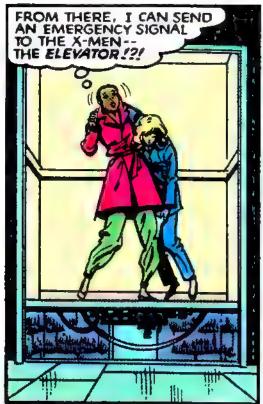






























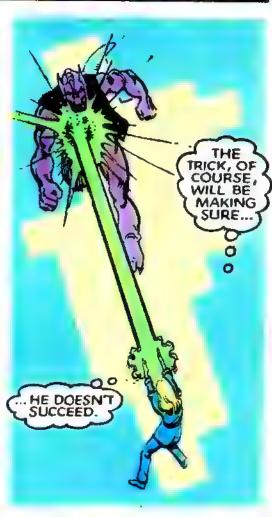






























"... MARVEL'S DARKEST HOUR!"

That's what one guy from Oil City, Pennsylvania, called our recent Assistant Editors' Month. On the other hand, a correspondent from Tulaa, Oklahoma thought that the assistants "... should trade jobs with the Editoral. They're more imaginative!" No one's been shy about commenting, that's for sure. We've gotten record amounts of mail regarding That Weird Month, and everywhere I go, people mention it to me. An officer at the Manufacturers Hanover Trust, where I have my savings account, walked up to me in the bank the other day and gave me his opinion - he loved it! While I was in Florida visiting the wonderful folks at Adventure International, a computer game designer named John Anderson and the company's founder, Scott Adams, himself (who is to computer gaming what Stan Lee is to comics!) brought it up - two more positive reactions. Letters are still pouring in, and it's too early to render the final verdict, though. Meanwhile, the Assistant Editors are slinking around here like turkeys the week before Thanksgiving

EVERYONE'S WONDERING ...

... just what was it that all the Marvel Editors were doing that kept them away during August, creating the need for Assistant Editors' Month in the first place.

Well, it was strictly business . . . sort of.

Here's what we did . .

Sunday evening, July 31st — We arrived In San Diego, picked up our four Chrysler LeBaron convertibles from Hertz, and checked into the luxunous Executive Hotel.

Monday, August 1st -- Brunch in the hotel restaurant. All are present and accounted for: Myself, Torn DeFaico, Denny O'Neil, Larry Hama, Louise Jones, Mark Gruenwald, Ralph Macchio, Bob Budiansky, Carl Potts, Danny Fingeroth, and official photographer Vince Colletta. We plan strategy. At 12:30 p.m. we drive to Night and Day Formal Wear in Fashion Valley to pick up our tuxedos. Spider-Man joins us and clowns around trying on jackets and cummerbunds over his Spider-Man suit. Who is this guy? At 3:00 p.m. we head for Mission Beach. An unexpected interruption -- we're pulled over by two San Diego motorcycle policemen. They want to know why Spider-Man's in town. We talk. They end up cheerfully giving old web-head a ride on one of their motorcycles. On the beach at last, we hold an Official Business Meeting in the surf to discuss the upcoming Sub-Mariner Limited Series. It does enhance the mood. Meanwhile Spider-Man is mobbed by civilians on the beach until he finally disappears again. Later, we meet for dinner at La Casa Bandini, a superb Mexican restaurant, in The Old Town.



Tuesday, August 2nd - Brunch again. then clad in our tuxes we motor off to Seaworld. We make our way to the penguin house where, again, Spider-Man mysteriously appears. In our penguin-like attire, surrounded by penguins, we meet to discuss the upcoming Ideman Limited Series. Again, the mood is enhanced. Spider-Man, meanwhile, as at the beach, is mobbed. Eventually, to prevent his being literally crushed by admirers, he ducks into a nearby building and vanishes! Who is this guy in the webbed suit? That evening, Publishing Vice President Mike Hobson. who's also in town, gathers us up and takes us off to a fantastic meal on the Reuben E. Lee, a riverboat restaurant floating in San Diego Harbor. Mike, a guilible guy, seems to be convinced that our "meetings" thus far are serious business, indeed. But, is he really convinced?

Wednesday, August 3rd - Brunch, and then off to the beach at Coronado, where we take lots of photos and Carl Potts teaches us how to body surf. That evening some of us go out to an elegant Italian dinner while the rest chow down at Taco Bell and roar off to a drive-in movie

Thursday, August 4th - Brunch. Then the San Diego Comicon begins at the San Diego Convention Center. Archie Goodwin and Allen Milgrom, the last of our crew finally arrive. Now, with every single Marvel editor present, we sit en masse at the snazzy Marvel booth in the main room answering questions and reviewing portfolios. Later, Tom DeFalco, Ralph Macchio, and Vince Colletta head for the airfield - we've hired a plane to fly above the city trailing a banner that reads "MARVEL COMICS - THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!" and they're going to oversee the operation. Darned if Spider-Man doesn't turn up there, too, insisting on flying the plane. We've got to find out who it is in that costume! We start listing suspects . . . trying to see who isn't around whenever 'Spider-Man" is. It has to be one of the Marvel artists in attendance pulling a fast one. Joe Rubinstein? Bill Sienklewicz? Art Adama? Paul Smith?

Friday, August 5th - Another Brunch, then more convention appearances. There's a lot of swimming, jet-skiing, and body surfing going on in between things though. A few editors take the trolley to Tiajuana for a while. That night there's a huge, official Marvel Comics party held in my suite. It expands to take up the whole fourth floor of the hotel

Saturday, August 6th — Another brunch more convention activities, more quick trips to the beach, more parties.

Sunday, August 7th — The penultimate brunch in San Diego. The convention winds down. We're pretty wound down, too, but "Solder-Man's" identity is secret no longer! Bill Sienkiewicz tips his hand - while wearing the costume, in the hotel lobby, he signs an autograph for a fan in the hotel lobby "Spiedier-Man." Aha!

Monday, August 8th — The last brunch and on to Los Angeles!

I'd love to tell you about that leg of the trip - especially about the Incident at Dianeyland — but we're out of space. Next month! Hang in there!

Jim Shooter

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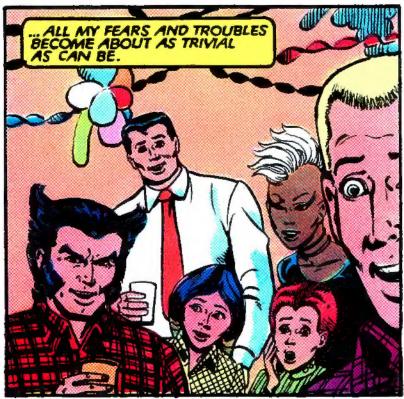


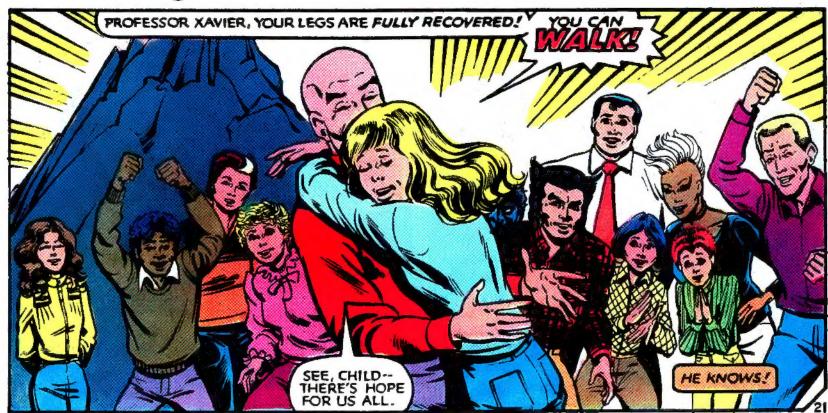














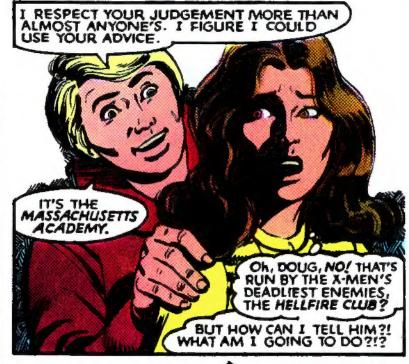












FOR THE
ANSWER, SEE
X-MEN *180,
ON SALE IN
TWO WEEKS!

FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF THAT ANSWER, BE HERE NEXT MONTH TO READ --



